In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for separating substances characterized by chromatographically separating said substances with the use of a packing which contains a charged (co)polymer and makes it possible to change the effective charge density on the surface of a stationary phase by a physical stimulus while fixing a mobile phase to an aqueous system.

2. (Original) The separation method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said physical stimulus is a change in temperature.

3. (Original) The separation method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said packing is a chromatographic packing chemically modified on the surface of a carrier with a temperature-responsive polymer.

4. (Currently Amended) The separation method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said packing is a chromatographic packing chemically modified with a temperature-responsive polymer by using ~~the~~ **a** radical polymerization method.

5. (Currently Amended) The separation method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said temperature-responsive polymer, with which the surface of the carrier is chemically modified, is a polyalkylacrylamide polymer or copolymer having an amino **group**, a carboxyl **group**, or a hydroxyl group in the side chains or at the ends.

6. (Original) The separation method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said polyalkylacrylamide is one selected from among poly(N-isopropylacrylamide), poly(N-propylacrylamide), polydiethylacrylamide and polyacryloylpyrrolidine.

7. (Currently Amended) The separation method as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claim 1, wherein said substances are those selected from among metal elements, drugs and biological components.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for separating substances characterized by retaining the substances in a stationary phase made of a chromatographic packing chemically modified with a polyalkylacrylamide copolymer having an amino **group**, a carboxyl **group**, or a hydroxyl group, then changing the hydrophilic/hydrophobic balance on the surface of the stationary phase by ~~the~~ **a** temperature gradient method wherein ~~the~~ **an** external temperature is changed stepwise, and passing the substances through a single mobile phase to thereby separate the same.

9. (Original) The separation method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said mobile phase is an aqueous solvent.

10. (Previously Amended) The separation method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said polyalkylacrylamide is one selected from among poly(N-isopropylacrylamide), poly(N-propylacrylamide), polydiethylacrylamide and polyacryloylpyrrolidine.

11. (Currently Amended) The separation method as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claim 8, wherein said substances are those selected from among metal elements, drugs and biological components.

12-14. (Withdrawn)

15. (New) The separation method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the polyalkylacrylamide copolymer has a plurality of amino groups, a plurality of carboxyl groups, or a plurality of hydroxyl groups.

16. (New) A method for separating substances characterized by chromatographically separating said substances with the use of a packing which contains a charged (co)polymer and makes it possible to change the effective charge density on the surface of a stationary phase by a change in temperature while fixing a mobile phase to an aqueous system, wherein said packing is a chromatographic packing chemically modified on the surface of a carrier with a temperature-responsive polymer, with which the surface of the carrier is chemically modified, is a

polyalkylacrylamide polymer or copolymer having a plurality of amino groups, a plurality of carboxyl groups, or a plurality of hydroxyl groups in the side chains or at the ends.

17. (New) The separation method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said packing is a chromatographic packing chemically modified with a temperature-responsive polymer by using a radical polymerization method.

18. (New) The separation method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said polyalkylacrylamide is one selected from among poly(N-isopropylacrylamide), poly(N-propylacrylamide), polydiethylacrylamide and polyacryloylpyrrolidine.

19. (New) The separation method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said substances are those selected from among metal elements, drugs and biological components.